



Court Drying Techniques

Using Your Hard-Court Squeegee

When you use your Courtmaster or Rol-Dri hard-court squeegee properly you can have a court with standing water dry in as little as 45 minutes. Of course a little assistance from mother nature helps! Outlined below are three ways to use your squeegee depending on court conditions. Remember that most squeegees, like a dry sponge, will need to be saturated before they will soften and most effectively absorb and move water. Once oversaturated they will be less effective at absorption and will tend to leave water behind. This can be resolved by taking the squeegee to the edge of the court and rolling toward the fence several times with strong downward pressure to wring out the water.

1. Court Condition: Dry with puddles

Squeegee Pattern: Star

Estimated dry time: 10 minutes after completion with some sun or breeze

Cross the puddle in multiple directions – north to south, east to west, northeast to southwest and so on – until the water is fully displaced from the low area. Some will be absorbed and some will be spread across dry areas of the court where it can evaporate more quickly. Repeat as necessary.

2. Court Condition: Summer thunderstorm passes through leaving a wet surface with some puddles

Squeegee Pattern: Spiral

Estimated dry time: 15 minutes after completion with some sun or breeze

Start at the T (center service line) and go around in overlapping circles, spiraling outward. This pushes water off the playing area and allows the heat of the court surface to assist with the evaporation of water in the high-play areas. This pattern can be repeated in a smaller spiral at the baselines to speed drying in those locations. While the playing area dries address remaining wet spots around the perimeter.

3. Court Condition: Rain event has left standing water across the surface

Squeegee Pattern: Snow plow followed by spiral

Estimated Dry Time: 25 minutes after completion with some sun or breeze

Outdoor tennis courts are constructed with a slope. The snow plow method pushes water down the slope. Start on the high side of the court and run the squeegee across the length (width) of the court with the sponge angled so that water is forced down the slope. Turn around and come back the opposite direction turning the squeegee to once again push the water down the slope. Repeat until you have made one pass down the entire court. You will find it takes some skill and effort to angle the squeegee while going straight but with a little practice you will get the hang of it. Once this first part is complete use the spiral method described above to remove water that gets left behind.

This method is extremely valuable when you absolutely need to get court open quickly. Two people should be able to complete the job in approximately 20 minutes.